



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,876	04/16/2004	Edward J. McGunn	00272P0015US	8620
32116	7590	11/28/2006	EXAMINER	
WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER 500 W. MADISON STREET SUITE 3800 CHICAGO, IL 60661			LEE, BENJAMIN C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/825,876

Applicant(s)

MCGUNN ET AL.

Examiner

Benjamin C. Lee

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 44-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 44-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Status

1. Claims 44-62 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 44-45, 48-49, 53-54, 57-59 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meeker (US pat. #5,742,034) as stand in the previous Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 46 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meeker in view of Wagner (US pat. #3,878,511) as stand in the previous Office action.
4. Claims 51 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meeker as stand in the previous Office action.
5. Claims 47 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meeker in view of Bentley (US pat. #6,529,723) as stand in the previous Office action.
6. Claims 52 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meeker in view of Nishijima (US pat. #5,915,069) as stand in the previous Office action.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 9/18/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Art Unit: 2612

1) Meek (US 5742034) on col. 4, lines 45-53 discloses that the “system” generates via communication port 154 any one or more reports, in which col. 4, lines 14-21 further defines such communication port 154 as “an RS-232 or RS-485 input/output communication port or jack coupled to the PC board so that the system can be interfaced with an accounting system or computer for convenient determination of status and preparation of reports. Each of a plurality of the safes can thus be interfaced with the office of the chief cashier or financial officer for supervision and control.” Thus Meek clearly claims a communication interface 154 interfacing through a network to an external device at the chief cashier or financial officer office, whereby such network is “external” to the “safe”, since the external accounting system or computer having such features as disclosed is more than a mere “peripheral device” as argued by applicant. Furthermore, RS-232 communication ports are known for interfacing an external network and can be used with a modem (Maria et al. US 6,092,110, col. 6, lines 64-67; Pascucci et al. US 6,115,713 col. 26, lines 33-46 are hereby provided only as evidence in validating Examiner’s position in the rejection as well as rebutting applicant’s arguments). Since the claimed invention did not recite that the safe is part of one network while the communication interface connects such network to another external network, the rejection’s interpretation in which the network that the communication interface/port is connected to that is external to the safe constitutes an “external network”.

2) In conclusion, applicant’s arguments are not deemed persuasive, and the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2612

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

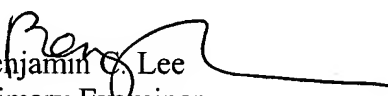
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin C. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-2963. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon -Thu 11:00Am-7:30Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Wu can be reached on (571) 272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2612

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Benjamin C. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2612

B.L.